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# 2B

## Information/Action

### *Professional Services Committee* **Expiration of Terms: Committee on Accreditation**

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**Executive Summary:** The terms of the members of the Committee on Accreditation will expire on June 30, 2006. This agenda item provides background information relating to the terms of committee members and provides information about the advisability of extending those terms.

**Recommended Action:** That the Commission take action regarding the terms of the Committee on Accreditation.

**Presenter:** Lawrence Birch, Administrator,  
Professional Services Division

#### **Strategic Plan Goal: 1**

#### **Promote educational excellence through the preparation and certification of professional educators**

- ◆ Sustain high quality standards for the preparation of professional educators.
- ◆ Assess and monitor the efficacy of the Accreditation System, Examination System, and State and Federal Funded Programs.



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## Expiration of Terms: Committee on Accreditation

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### Introduction

The terms of the members of the Committee on Accreditation will expire on June 30, 2006. This agenda item provides background information relating to the terms of committee members and provides information about the advisability of extending those terms.

### Background

Education Code Section 44373 established the Committee on Accreditation (COA) and delegates to the Committee the authority to make decisions about the accreditation of educator preparation in accordance with policies adopted by the Commission set forth in the *Accreditation Framework*. By statute, the COA consists of 12 members selected for their distinguished records of accomplishment in education. Education Code 44373 specifies, “six members shall be from postsecondary education institutions, and six shall be certificated professionals in public schools, school districts, or county offices of education in California. No member shall serve on the Committee as a representative of any organization or institution.” The law requires membership to be (to the maximum extent possible) balanced in terms of ethnicity, gender, and geographic regions and requires the Commission to include members from elementary and secondary schools, and members from public and private institutions of postsecondary education. The *Accreditation Framework* also defines the process and procedures for selecting new members of the COA.

In December 2002, the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (Commission) took action to focus its accreditation activities for the remainder of 2002-2003 and all of 2003-2004 on initial program accreditation activities to fully implement the SB 2042 standards. Accreditation site visits scheduled in those time periods were postponed with the exception that all scheduled NCATE/Commission merged visits would be held according to schedule. In light of this action, the Commission determined that it was not prudent to conduct a selection process for new COA members during that time. The Commission took action on May 8, 2003 to extend the terms of all COA members for an additional two years.

Faced with significant budget constraints, the Commission took action on March 25, 2004, to suspend all non-NCATE accreditation visits for an additional state fiscal year (2004-2005). The prior two-year extension of terms enabled the Commission to maintain the full membership of the Committee on Accreditation during the beginning of the review of its accreditation system. By having experienced members, the COA was better able to participate in discussions about the future of accreditation and work with the Accreditation Study Work Group in advising the Commission on accreditation issues as required under the *Framework* and requested by the Commission at its May 2004 meeting. The postponement of the selection process to seek and screen nominations and to schedule subsequent interviews with the Commission resulted in cost savings during the two-year period.

As a result of the Commission’s action to extend the terms of COA members taken two years ago, there were six members of the Committee whose terms ended on June 30, 2005. The terms

of the other six members of the Committee will end on June 30, 2006. Because the Commission had not yet taken action on a revised accreditation system and because sufficient resources were not available, the COA selection process was not conducted last year that would have appointed new COA members.

### **COA Membership**

<b>COA Terms that would have ended on June 30, 2005</b>	<b>COA Terms that would have ended on June 30, 2006</b>
Diane Doe – K-12 San Francisco Unified School District	Karen O'Connor – K-12 Poway Unified School District
Dana Griggs – K-12 Ontario Montclair School District	Donna Uyemoto – K-12 Dublin Unified School District
David Madrigal – K-12 Antioch Unified School District	Michael Watenpaugh – K-12 Cotati-Rohnert Park Unified School District
Fred Baker – Postsecondary Education Calif. Polytechnic State Univ., Pomona	Lynne Cook – Postsecondary Education California State University, Northridge
Ed Kujawa – Postsecondary Education Dominican University	Ruth Sandlin – Postsecondary Education Calif. State University, San Bernardino
Irma Guzman Wagner – Postsecondary Educ. California State University, Stanislaus	Sue Teele – Postsecondary Education University of California, Riverside

Therefore at the August 2005 Commission meeting, the Commission acted to extend the terms for the six Committee on Accreditation members, whose terms had ended June 30, 2005, to June 30, 2006. This was to enable the completion of the accreditation review and the transition to a revised *Accreditation Framework*. After the August Commission meeting, Michael Watenpaugh resigned from the COA. Currently, the COA has eleven members and the terms of all eleven members of the COA will now expire on June 30, 2006.

### **Options and Considerations**

In the 2006-07 year, the Commission has six merged NCATE/CTC accreditation visits scheduled. In addition, as the Commission transitions from the 1995 *Framework* to a new *Framework*, the Committee on Accreditation will be responsible for implementing the policies of the revised *Framework*, including a revision of the Commission's *Accreditation Handbook*, which provides guidelines for accreditation reviews. The development of implementation procedures will be a major focus of the COA during the entire 2006-07 fiscal year. In reviewing the following options, the Commission may wish to consider the need for continuity and committee member experience as the COA begins to implement the modifications to the *Accreditation Framework* that the Commission adopts.

#### **Option A: Extend the appointments of the eleven members of the COA to June 30, 2007.**

If the Commission were to extend the terms of members of the Committee on Accreditation for an additional year to June 30, 2007, all COA terms would then end on the same date. Subject to the adoption of a revised selection process by the Commission, during the 2006-2007 year, a revised selection process for new COA members could be implemented and the Commission

could be ready to select new members by June 2007. The revised selection process will also include a transition plan that will indicate the number of new COA members to be selected each year and the number and terms of current COA members (if any) to be continued beyond June 30, 2007 throughout the transition.

This option would have no additional costs in the current (2005-2006) year. Assuming the Commission adopts a selection and transition schedule similar to what is included as the preferred option by the Committee on Accreditation and the Accreditation Study Work Group, it would be necessary to initiate the new selection process in 2006-2007 and appoint three new members of the COA who would begin their service on July 1, 2007. The estimated costs for selecting and appointing three new COA members would be approximately \$3,500 in the 2006-07 fiscal year.

Option B: Extend the appointments of six COA members to June 30, 2007.

The Commission would extend the terms of six members of the Committee on Accreditation for an additional year and begin the selection process as described in the current *Accreditation Framework* to select six additional COA members for the 2006-07 year. This option would incur a cost of approximately \$9,000 in the current (2005-06) year. Further it would be difficult to complete the selection process by the beginning of the 2006-07 year.

The Commission may wish to take action regarding the terms of the Committee on Accreditation at this meeting or may wish to ask staff to bring additional information to the next Commission meeting.